

02-277  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

JUN 02 2003

Distribution Center  
May 28, 2003

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

**• There must be no relaxing of media ownership rules.**

On the contrary, the FCC should require the reversal of the trend toward consolidation. A case in point is the media giant Clear Channel Communications whose domination of radio have homogenized the airwaves. Another example of this distortion is the plan of Rupert Murdoch (an Australian citizen, incidentally) to purchase DirecTV, opening the door to TV becoming an outpost of the Murdoch empire.

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JUL - 3 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Democracy is built on the idea that the view and beliefs of an informed citizenry are the best basis for political decision-making. Without access to fair and balanced news, the political system simply doesn't work.

Media corporations cannot be trusted to balance themselves. They have shown, again and again, that they're willing to sacrifice journalism to improve the bottom line. That's why we need many media entities - to keep each other honest and to provide the information and ideas that make democracy happen.

Monopoly power is a dangerous thing, and the FCC and Congress are supposed to guard against it. You must support a diverse, competitive media landscape.

• You must delay any ruling for 60 days during which time more public hearings will be held.

• The process of your decision-making must become transparent, with drafts made public and subject to debate.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Arlene Feldman

JUN 02 2003

Distribution Center

Wanda S. Ballentine, 1195 Sylvania Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44121-2523  
216-691-9818, fax 216-297-1083, wsb2001@adelphia.net

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 30, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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JUL - 3 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the SecretaryCommissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Fax (202) 418-0710

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS!**

Currently, five companies own 90% of the media and yet want to own even more. **THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.** In 1996, ownership restrictions were removed on radio, and it is now vastly more commercial and generally ignores local news. Radio should be the most decentralized and democratic medium available, but has become the most regimented and standardized. Clear Channel alone owns more than 1,200 channels, 9% of the market. Recently, in an area where a tornado was approaching, the police could not contact anyone at the Clear Channel station to send out a warning. No one was there - it was on automatic pilot, spewing out the same music and canned news all over the country.

Now the Commission is poised to wreak the same havoc on all other forms of media, so that the public will basically get one news story - just like any totalitarian country.

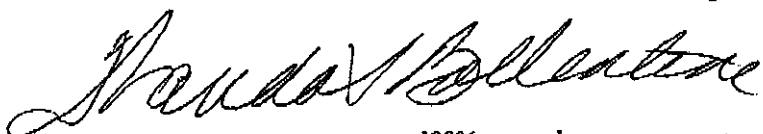
I have read that public hearings on this issue were held only at the insistence of Commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein (thank you). Of the 10 that were held, Chairman Powell attended only part of two, Mr. Copps attended all, Adelstein, a few, and the others, none - who needs to hear the people in a democracy?? Members of the public, however, attended in force - and many of the hearings were jam-packed. But I hear that the commission ordered Michael Copps to stop speaking on the issue in public as of last Tuesday, which an extraordinary move smacking of more totalitarianism. And I understand that the FCC authorized research to justify relaxing the media rules - but has kept it top secret, refusing to let either members of congress or media scholars to see it - ditto.

Meanwhile, public sentiment has not only been almost unanimously opposed to relaxing or eliminating the ownership rules; it is in favor of strengthening those rules. Of 9,065 citizen comments submitted to the FCC only 11 supported changing the rules - 99.8% opposed!

Common Cause, MoveOn.org and a widely diverse coalition, including the NRA, NOW, and the Catholic Conference, have presented you with more than 500,000 petitions against the change in ownership rules.

The Center for Public Integrity reports that FCC officials have held 71 meetings with top broadcasters but only five private sessions with Consumers Union and the Media Access Project, the two major consumer groups working on this issue. These two groups represent THE PEOPLE who supposedly own the airways and whose interests should be of most concern to the Commission as opposed to the profit-making desires of media corporations.

On June 2nd, I urge you to retain the current ownership rules - and democracy in the media.



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NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2**RECEIVED**FROM: NOEL ASHBORNEPHONE #: 707-332-3815

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the SecretarySPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/NOTES \_\_\_\_\_  
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MAY 29 2003  
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

May 28, 2003

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

☛ **There must be no relaxing of media ownership rules.**

On the contrary, the FCC should require the reversal of the trend toward consolidation. A case in point is the media giant Clear Channel Communications whose domination of radio have homogenized the airwaves. Another example of this distortion is the plan of Rupert Murdoch (an Australian citizen, incidentally) to purchase DirecTV, opening the door to TV becoming an outpost of the Murdoch empire.

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

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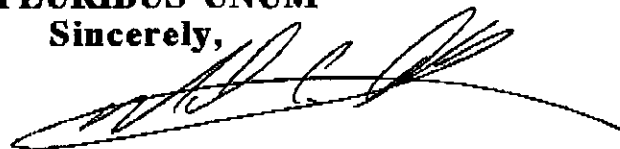
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☛ **You must delay any ruling for 60 days during which time more public hearings will be held.**

☛ **The process of your decision-making must become transparent, with drafts made public and subject to debate.**

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Sincerely,



NOEL C. ASHBOURNE

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**TO**  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
**FROM**Name/Attention: KEVIN MARTINCompany Name: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONFAX #: (202) 418-0710Number of pages  
(including cover sheet): \_\_\_\_\_Name: ALAN AZHDERIANPhone #: (707) 829-0546**MESSAGE:**MAY 29 2003Distribution Center

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Alan Ayderian  
AMERICAN CITIZEN  
AGE 57

FAX # 202 418-2710  
~~202 418-2710~~

TO: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

From: Cynthia Abbott  
Corte Madera, CA

Re: **Opposition to FCC vote on media deregulation.**

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. **Oppose media deregulation.**

*Cynthia Abbott*

JUN 02 2003

Distribution Center

FAX # 202-418-0710

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Corte Madera, CA

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*Cynthia Abbott*

JUN 02 2003

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May 30, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554  
FAX (202) 418-0710

Chairman Powell,

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Our democracy depends upon a diverse and robust media that ensures the free flow of information from a wide array sources and viewpoints. But recent years have been characterized by rapid consolidation in the media industry, a trend that has left us with fewer corporations controlling a larger percentage of the information upon which we base important political and personal decisions.

Please do not change the media ownership rules.

Sincerely,



Mark Arnold

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JUL - 3 2003

(Date)

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael Powell

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554  
FAX (202) 418-0710

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Atkins

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

MAY 29 2003  
Distribution Center

May 28, 2003

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

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Sincerely,

Janet L. Barocco  
Santa Rosa, Ca

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

6407 Avenida Cresta  
La Jolla, Ca. 92037

June 2, 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

JUN 02 2003

Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Powell:

As a 16th generation American whose (several greats) grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War, I take ownership of the airways very seriously. I try to remind myself daily of the sacrifices made by so those courageous people for this country.

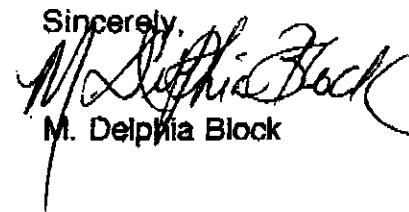
Do you have the moral authority to be so generous with OUR airways? The move to ease rules governing ownership of newspapers, television and radio stations is not in the public's best interest. Your job is to serve the public and that is what we expect you to do.

In a democracy, the rulers and the ruled are identical -- government of the people, by the people and for the people. In order for popular self-government to succeed, each citizen must develop informed opinions on a wide variety of public issues and become familiar with the workings of local, regional and national government. To accomplish this, we must have a variety of newspapers, television and radio stations.

"Dumbing down" of America is synonymous with Rupert Murdoch. We want less of him, not more!

A display of respect for the owners of the airways by delaying a vote on this egregious plan would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

  
M. Delfina Block

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

MAY 30 2003  
Distribution Center

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

*Anna Louise Baylor, MD*  
*Santa Rosa CA*

TONY AND JOYCE BORRA

716 Howell Court  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
770 (404) 498-2356  
Fax (404) 498-2027

**FAX****to:**

Federal Commn. Comm-Commissioners  
(Mr Powell, Mr Copps, Ms. Abernathy,  
Mr Martin, Mr Adelstein)

**from:**

Tony Borra and Joy A. Borra

**subject:**

Request to prevent further  
ownership consolidation.

MAY 30 2003  
Distribution Center

**pages:**

2 (including this one)

**date:**

5/30/03

**fax no.**

of recipient

202-418-0710

ANTONIO BORRA

Phone: 770-498-2356  
Email: jborra@mindspring.com  
716 Howell Court  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

JOY P. BORRA

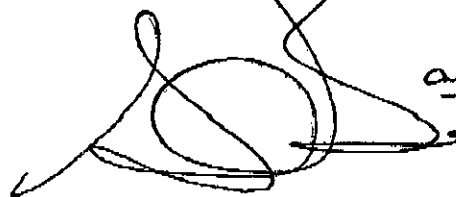
May 26, '03

Dear Federal Commun. Comm. Commissioners

I strongly urge the FCC NOT  
to allow further <sup>ownership</sup> consolidation of  
communications/media channels  
and stations. There is already  
too much consolidation.

Please ensure competition  
and diversity of options for we  
the public. "Public Radio" and  
"Public Television" ~~are~~ are the only  
respite now from "Mass Media."

Sincerely,

 and Joy P. Borra

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02-273

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

To: FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
From: Mark Bergeson  
Re: FCC Media ownership rules

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

5/30/03

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

Please vote against relaxing FCC rules on media ownership.

In order for our democracy to work, citizens of the United States need access to information from many different sources. We need the checks and balances provided by a competitive media marketplace.

I'm afraid that if big media companies don't have competition, they will report only the news that they want the public to hear. The issue of media ownership rules is a case in point. It is in the big companies' self interest to minimize public awareness of this issue, and just look at how little reporting they have done on it. This paucity of big media coverage suggests that the FCC should strengthen the ownership rules, not weaken them.

I've heard that the big media companies have spent a lot of money wining and dining the FCC, in Las Vegas and other places. Please give the public equal time. My wife and I are hereby inviting you over to our place for dinner and beverages. She makes delicious food! Please let us know what date and time would be convenient for you, and we will adjust our schedules to accommodate you. You can contact us at 360-352-5055.

Please strengthen the media ownership rules rather than weakening them, and please delay your decision to give the public more time to comment.

Thank you for considering this request,

*Mark Bergeson*

Mark Bergeson  
1405 11th Ave SE  
Olympia WA 98501  
360-352-5055

Sent 5/30/03



02-217  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILING RECEIVED

To: FCC Commissioner Michael Copps  
From: Mark Bergeson  
Re: FCC Media ownership rules

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JUL - 3 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

5/30/03

Dear Commissioner Copps,

Thank you for your courageous efforts to raise public awareness on the media ownership rule vote. You are a patriot and a hero. Here is the text of a letter I've composed and faxed to your fellow FCC commissioners:

Please vote against relaxing FCC rules on media ownership.

In order for our democracy to work, citizens of the United States need access to information from many different sources. We need the checks and balances provided by a competitive media marketplace.

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Thank you for considering this request.

*Mark Bergeson*

Mark Bergeson  
1405 11th Ave SE  
Olympia WA 98501  
360-352-5055

p.s. Thanks again!

Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

MAY 29 2003  
Distribution Center

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

J. COSMAN, M.D.

**Ad Hoc Committee for Media Diversity**  
**P.O.Box 484, Occidental, CA 95465**  
**(707) 874-3855 (707) 823-5825**

JUN 02 2003  
Distribution Center

**Attention: Kevin J. Martin,**  
**Federal Communications Commissioner**

**Fax#: (202) 418-0710**

**From:** BETT CARSTENS  
700 Robinson Rd. Sebastopol, California 95472

**# Pages (including cover sheet):** 2 2

**Date:** May 30, 2003

**Comments:**

*Diversity is a great wealth.*

Ad Hoc Committee for Media Diversity  
P.O. Box 484, Occidental, CA 95465  
(707)874-3855, (707)823-5825

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM  
Sincerely,

June 2, 2003

Federal Communication Commission  
FAX #: (202) 863-2898  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

JUN 02 2003  
Distribution Center

Dear Michael Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, Kevin Martin, Jonathan Adelstein:

I am writing to express my grave concern over the decision you are about to make today regarding the federal communication act and ask that you take a little more time. Based on my first hand experiences, I think that this increase in percentage of holdings for a single operator to 45 % will make information more disparate based on your geography and economic strata. The real impacts are at a local level and worse, if your locality is rural. The news is the news. The information may be biased if you only listen to one channel, read one newspaper, or listen to one radio station all the time. So, the solution is to obtain news from different mediums (radio, TV (different channels), newspaper, internet). However, the imbalance or bias, if you will, occurs when you have limited number of or no choices in your geographic area. Listed below are just some of the impacts I see and have personally experienced since the original round of changes went in to effect approximately seven years ago.

Detailed Concerns:

1. If you live in a rural area, many local TV and radio stations have been eliminated or consolidated with a larger station in a bigger city nearby.

Specific example that describes the Problem: I lived on the eastern Sierras in a small town named Mammoth Lakes, CA. Winter weather is severe and we rely upon the weather reports. About 3 years ago the local TV station and the news were eliminated and now we get Reno news. The problem with this is that the weather (a very important issue is no longer about this region) is about Reno and Lake Tahoe where there are different weather patterns. The alternative is to watch the Weather Channel. Ok. That's a solution or is it? First, the Weather Channel is located on the eastern us so, it tends to spend more time in the central, northeast and southeast. There is limited broadcasting time on the west coast. Next, the specific local on the 8s is not complete since the

2. Regardless if you live in a suburban or rural area, do I really have access to local stations / news?

Specific example when I installed Satellite in my condo 4 years ago in Los Angeles, CA. At that time, Satellite companies did not offer local service only Satellite. When I requested the installation, I wanted to keep an original coax line coming in to my unit so I could maintain local service. The technician had strict instructions to repurpose the local service line for the Satellite. I personally spent 3 hours talking to manager after to manager to insure that my original line was not cut so I could maintain local service.

As you know, satellite companies were required to offer local service but, it was for a different geographic region and there was a separate charge. I think in my case, the local news was considered Seattle. The re-percussions were a reduction in advertising by local advertisers since the audience was really not local to the region. Remember the reduction in advertising two years ago?

3. Maintaining access to fair and balanced information regardless of the size of your region.

One of the concerns of lawmakers is that they want the American people to continue to be involved in the political process. One of the ways to do this is to stay informed. If the news organizations only cover certain types of news, then many times, you only hear one side of the argument. Further, many of us have a limited amount of time that we can spend listening, watching, or reading the news. Therefore, our choices may create the bias. Finally, if we only have access to one radio, TV, and newspaper and it is owned by the same company, then effectively, the information is single sourced, and by definition biased.

Amy Cutter 6700 Hillpark Dr., # 301 Los Angeles, CA 90068 H (323) 850-5459  
And  
P.O. Box 8964, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

My point about bias is that you eliminate the "bias" by mixing up your news that come from different sources to "create the balance" of information. The decision you are making reduces the options of different sources, and, therefore, reduces the possibility of opposing viewpoints. Balance of information is sometimes created by the existence of a debate.

In preparing this letter, I am reflective of how awesome a decision you have in your hands. The FCC is the caretaker of the broadcasting bandwidth. There is a public service that goes along with this responsibility and the choices you make will affect each and every person and how they get information (whether they know it or not). It seems to me that a select few have lobbied for these changes, and this is the limited audience you are supposed to answer to (is that really the case or the choice you have made?). Further, you are brokering this bandwidth like a commodity that you own that you have the right to sell. It may be the laws have changed to give you that right. If so, shame on us. If not, shame on you. There is so much more to say on this issue but I am sure you will not have time read at this later hour before the vote. Anyway, I am available if you have questions regarding the few specific examples I have provided here. There are numerous others I have seen having lived in small and large cities. There are very interesting things that occur in the culture of a city when there is information available and when there is not.

*Again, I believe that you need to spend a little more time investigating the impacts and respectfully request that you delay this decision.*

Sincerely,



Amy Cutter

AC:arc

Amy Cutter 6700 Hillpark Dr., # 301 Los Angeles, CA 90068 H (323) 850-5459  
And  
P.O. Box 8964, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

As time goes by



Distribution Center  
Lloyd Clark

## Critical FCC ruling deserves public scrutiny

**T**he interlude between the time a bomb is set to explode and the moments a technician has to de-activate it induces heart-pounding stress in that individual. Collectively, the public is in the role of that specialist when it comes to the "bomb" set to be detonated on June 2.

The Federal Communication Commission's majority members are preparing to destroy a principle of open government, to wit: Disclosing and allowing adequate time for comment on rules that will bring significant changes to long-standing procedures.

If FCC Chairman Michael Powell has his way, he and his two fellow Republican members may decide that Monday on making drastic changes to the 1996 Telecom Act — the law that has assured the public's right to diverse and independent flow of ideas and opinions over the airwaves.

A letter to Chairman Powell from a majority of the Commerce Committee (chaired by Sen. John McCain) members expressed disappointment that such changes would occur "without any opportunity for the Congress or the public to review them beforehand."

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**UNDERTAKING PRECIPITOUS** action without seeking public input over a reasonable period of time is not a shortcoming, however, of only Republican-dominated agencies. In Arizona recently the Democratic governor has disregarded the established procedure for changing the name of a terrain feature. She manipulated a tragic event — the death of a female soldier — in accomplishing a political expedient. (I am a member of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names and cast the only vote against changing the name on April 17.)

Powell and his cohorts are reported to have developed a "diversity index" designed as a universal measurement of media ownership. If their proposal is implemented, massive consolidation of news and information sources will result. At local levels, one firm could acquire a vast majority of media outlets, including newspaper, magazine, TV and radio stations, and cable TV systems. Crux of the matter is that big media corporations would be allowed to acquire more properties.

See CLARK, AAG

# CLARK:

## Public action needed to defuse FCC bomb

From AA1

The haste with which some governmental officials seek to circumvent rules developed to protect the public's interest occurs too often. Such chicanery is very likely to be evident on June 2 when the FCC convenes and three of the five members become the "Flavoring Contributors' Committee."

The fuse is short, and if the "bomb" is to be deactivated, the public must act. E-mails to Sen. John McCain (john\_mccain@mccain.senate.gov) and Chairman Michael K. Powell (mpowell@fcc.gov) -- expressing objection to any hurried change to the provisions of the Telecom Act — are in order.

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**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** Gerald Mirvin Carrier was born in 1917. When his 2-year-old sister, Helen, was informed, she said "I want to seee brudder." He thereupon acquired the nickname of "Buddy," which was shortened to "Bud" by the time he entered junior high in Indianapolis. In high school he decided to be called Mirvin, and by the time he was in college he was being addressed as "Jerry" — and Jerry he remained until he died in March 2002.

Mrs. Helen C. Roach (the sister) resides in Peoria. She has been mentioned here previously in addressing the topic of "Free!" — one of this column's complaints against advertisers who apply that term falsely. (The "Buy One, Get One Free!" pitch is a blatant untruth, inasmuch as a requirement to purchase one thing does not make the other gratis.)

Readers may write to Lloyd Clark at P.O. Box 34422, Phoenix, Ariz. 85067.